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(54) **Optical signal power detection with signature bit pattern in WDM systems**

(57) The power of an optical signal (s_1) travelling on a channel (λ_1) of a WDM transmission system, is measured using a signature bit pattern (s_{BP1}) which is inserted in the frame of the optical signal (s_1). The power level of s_{BP1} is adjusted at the launching point to a predetermined ratio (m) with the power of the optical signal. At a point of interest, the fiber is tapped and a fraction of

the tapped signal, that includes a corresponding fraction of s_{BP1} , is converted to an electrical signal. The fraction of s_{BP1} is extracted from the electrical signal and power of s_{BP1} is measured. This gives the optical power of s_1 as (m) is known and also the calibration constant for the respective channel (λ_1) is known. The method can be applied for any and all channels of the WDM transmission system.

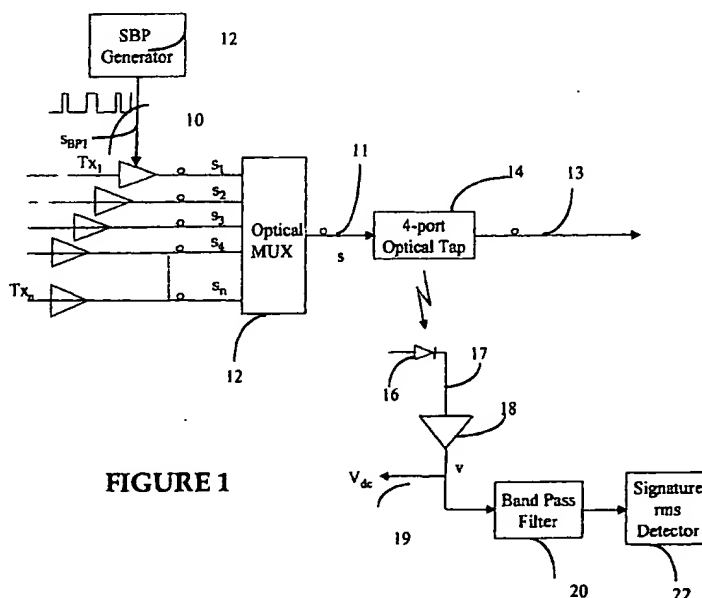


FIGURE 1

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			H04B H04J
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 12 March 2001	Examiner Ribbe, A
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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